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ZOÖLOGY

Guyer's Animal Micrology,¹ though burdened with a horrible name, is one of the best and most practical works upon microscopic technique with which we are acquainted, ranking, in this respect with Böhm and Oppel's well-known "Taschenbuch" which, by the way, is not referred to in the list of works cited on p. vi.

The especial merit of the work lies in its great practicability. It does not burden the beginner with a large number of alternatives; but starts him at once with a few reagents of almost universal availability and sets him at work with his specimens. Only when these have been carried through and converted into slides are other methods and other objects considered.

In the Appendix are given an account of the microscope and its accessories, a list of further tried and proved reagents and a table of tissues and organs with methods of preparation which will doubtless prove of value to instructors as well as to students. The list which is given embraces over 250 objects and is more than ample to illustrate any practicable course in normal histology. The final chapter of the Appendix deals with methods preparatory to microscopic preparation and study of a series of animals which are frequently used in the Zoölogical Laboratory.

Omissions of what we would like to see in such a work are few. We have found no mention of Cox's Golgi method which presents certain advantages over the silver impregnation; the Golgi method for distinguishing bile capillaries is not referred to, nor is the value of Lyons blue for differentiating cartilage. The method of rolling wax plates for reconstruction, credited to Huber (p. 128), has been in use for many years. In the 'Memoranda' on p. 30 it is stated that material which is to be kept indefinitely should be put in tightly stoppered bottles, but there is no hint as to the injurious effects of the extracts of cork and that some other method of closure should be adopted. But why find any more fault with such a useful and excellent work?

J. S. K.

¹ *Animal Micrology. Practical Exercises in Microscopical Methods* by Michael F. Guyer, Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1906, pp. ix + 240. \$1.75 net.